

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 DLOS-05 FEA-01 ACDA-10

AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07

FMC-02 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-02 OES-05 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER PINDLING COMMENTS ON FACILITIES TALKS,
FISHING

GENEVA FOR LOS DELEGATION

1. GCOB PM PINDLING COMMENTED ON US-BAHAMIAN RELATIONS AND SPECIFICALLY ON FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS AND POTENTIAL FISH-ERIES PROBLEMS IN A RADIO INTERVIEW APRIL 14. PROGRAM IS PART OF MONTHLY SERIES OF INTERVIEWS WITH PRIME MINISTER TITLED "CONTACT". ONE REPORTER INTERVIEWING PINDLING APRIL 14 WAS DON BOHNING OF MIAMI HERALD, WHO ASKED ALL FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

2. BOHNING ASKED PINDLING TO CHARACTERIZE US-BAHAMIAN RELATIONS, WHICH PINDLING DID WITH THE SINGLE WORD "GOOD". IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON FACILITIES, PRIME MINISTER SAID HE
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ANTICIPATED NO PROBLEMS IN "RENEGOTIATING" TERMS OF LEASES

ON US FACILITIES. HE SAID FACT THAT TWO YEARS HAD PASSED WITHOUT FINAL AGREEMENT WAS DUE TO FACT "THERE ARE CERTAIN TECHNICAL AREAS THAT HAVE TO BE SET ASIDE -- THE ARCHIPELAGIC PRINCIPLE AND PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS" AND THAT BOTH AREAS WERE BEING CONSIDERED AT THE LOS CONFERENCE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, PM SAID THAT FISHING POSED NO PROBLEM FOR FORMAL US-BAHAMIAN RELATIONS "BUT THERE IS A PRACTICAL PROBLEM INVOLVING FISHERMEN FROM VARIOUS SOUTH FLORIDA PORTS." PINDLING NOTED DROP IN POACHING ARRESTS DURING PAST YEAR AND ATTRIBUTED IT TO FACT FISHERMEN WERE STAYING OUT OF BAHAMIAN WATERS RATHER THAN TO GENERAL DROP IN FISHING ACTIVITY IN THE AREA. ASKED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT POTENTIAL OF NEW SPINEY LOBSTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LEGISLATION FOR CREATING PROBLEMS, PINDLING FIRST OPINED THAT REGULATIONS PURSUANT TO LEGISLATION WOULD "PROBABLY" BE ISSUED BEFORE AUGUST 1 OPENING OF SEASON. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT ENFORCEMENT OF NEW REGULATIONS "MIGHT CREATE A FURTHER PRACTICAL PROBLEM" WITH FLORIDA-BASED FISHERMEN, BUT HOPED THAT WIDE ADVANCE PUBLICITY WOULD REDUCE CHANCE FISHERMEN WOULD ENTER WATERS AFFECTED. PRODDED BY BOHNING, PM SAID HE WAS SURE GCOB MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES WOULD BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT INVITATION TO EXPLAIN NEW REGULATIONS TO THE FLORIDA FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION. FINALLY, PM ADMITTED "WE (I.E. BAHAMAS) WILL HAVE A PRACTICAL PROBLEM WITH REGARD TO ENFORCEMENT, BUT THAT'S OUR PROBLEM."
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